SECRET

Dear Benny:

In the absence of General White I am taking the opportunity to respond to your two letters of 15 September in which you express deep concern over the events which have been plaguing both the MIDAS and SAMOS programs for the past year or more. I completely share your concern and the subject of your letters has been discussed with the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Research and Development. We believe that many of the problems to which you refer in these two letters will be solved by early implementation of Mr. McElroy's memorandum to the Joint Chiefs of Staff on "Coordination of Satellite Advanced Space Vehicle Operations," dated 18 September 1959.

Pending this, certain actions have been taken by this Headquarters to bring some of these problems more clearly into focus. In regard to the subject of the recoverable capsule development in the SAMOS program, AFBMD has been requested to provide the total cost by fiscal year from estimated approval date through to completion.

AFBMD has also been asked to advise this Headquarters as to whether planned SAMOS operational launches fall within the range safety criteria as defined in the new Agreement for Coordinated Peacetime Operations of the Pacific Missile Range, dated 22 September 1959. If the Navy agrees that these launches can be made from 65-1 without compromising range safety, a date will be established to effect the transfer of the 65-1 Launch Complex from support of the Atlas ICC program to the SAMOS operational program.

As for the general problems in the Point Arguello-Vandenberg area, it is expected that the new agreement between the Air Force and the Navy will assist in their resolution. On top of this decision the Department of Defense has charged Mr. Cisler with the responsibility for determining Service responsibilities in relation to the National Range Programs. This decision is not expected for at least two months and should have an effect on this matter.

In response to your questions on the funding picture of both MIDAS and SAMOS, the attached summary is submitted. The Assistant Secretary

SECRET

of the Air Force for Research and Development has determined from Dr. Teak that no additional funds than those shown in the financial plan can be applied against ATBM until such time as success in the ABM program has been achieved. Hopefully, this success can be demonstrated following the launch of the second ATBM satellite in March of 1960.

Sincerely,

Signed

CURTIS E. LeMAY
General, U.S. Air Force
Vice Chief of Staff

1 Atch
Financial Summary

Lt. General B. A. Schriever
Commander, Air Research & Development Command
United States Air Force
Andrews Air Force Base
Washington 25, D. C.

[redacted]

[redacted]

		FY [redacted]		FY [redacted]	
		[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Program Requirements (RDT)		160.4	5.9	[redacted]	
Included in Financial Plan		148.0	11.5		
	[redacted]				
Program Requirements		28.9	31.2	28.9	28.9
Included in Financial Plan		18.0	28.9	28.0	97.3
	[redacted]				
Program Requirements:					
[redacted] (RDT)		-	10.8	-	[redacted]
[redacted]		-	12.8	-	
[redacted] (Operational)			4.9		
			28.5		
Included in Financial Plan		23.5			